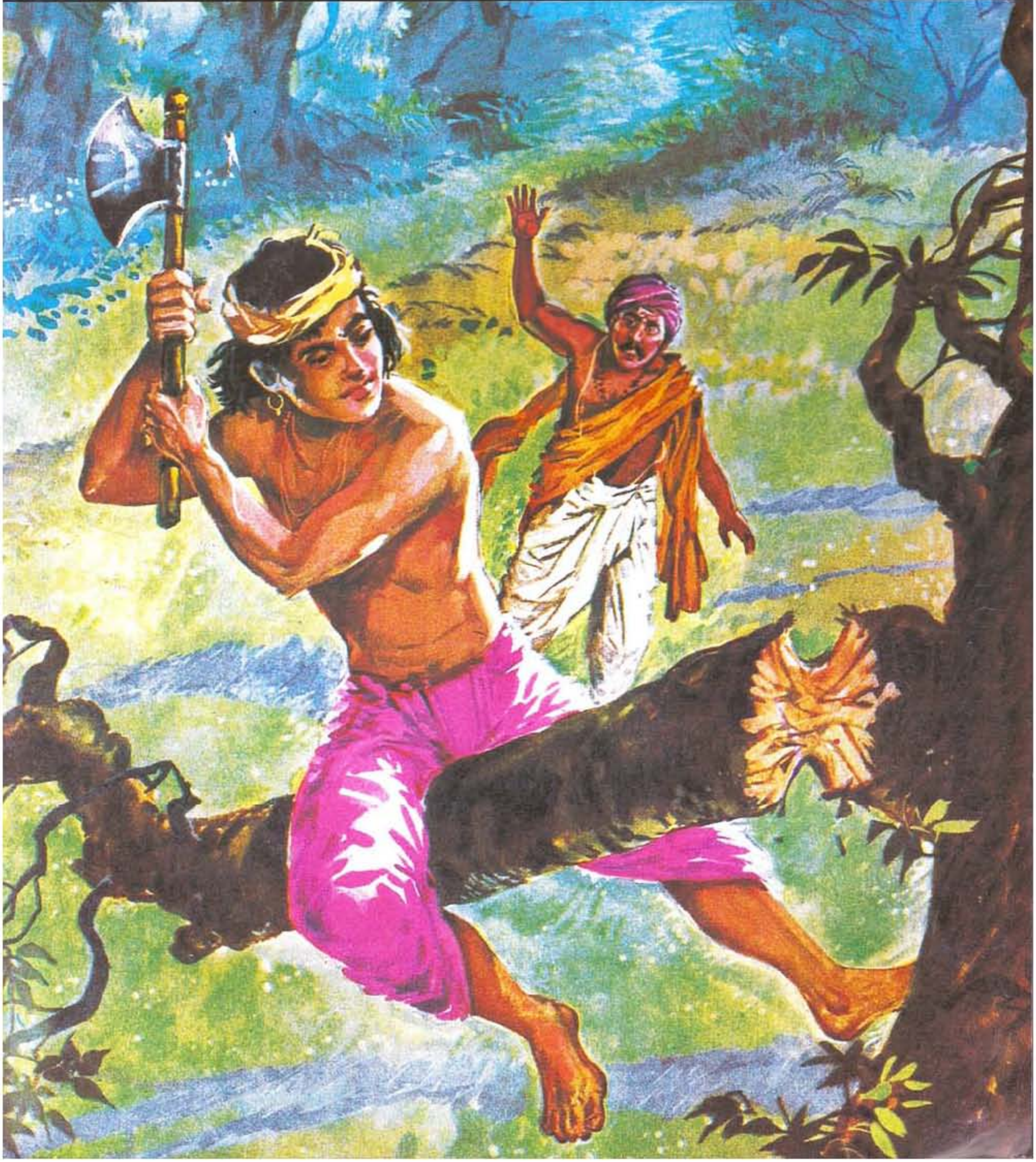
KALIDASA

MASTER POET AND DRAMATIST

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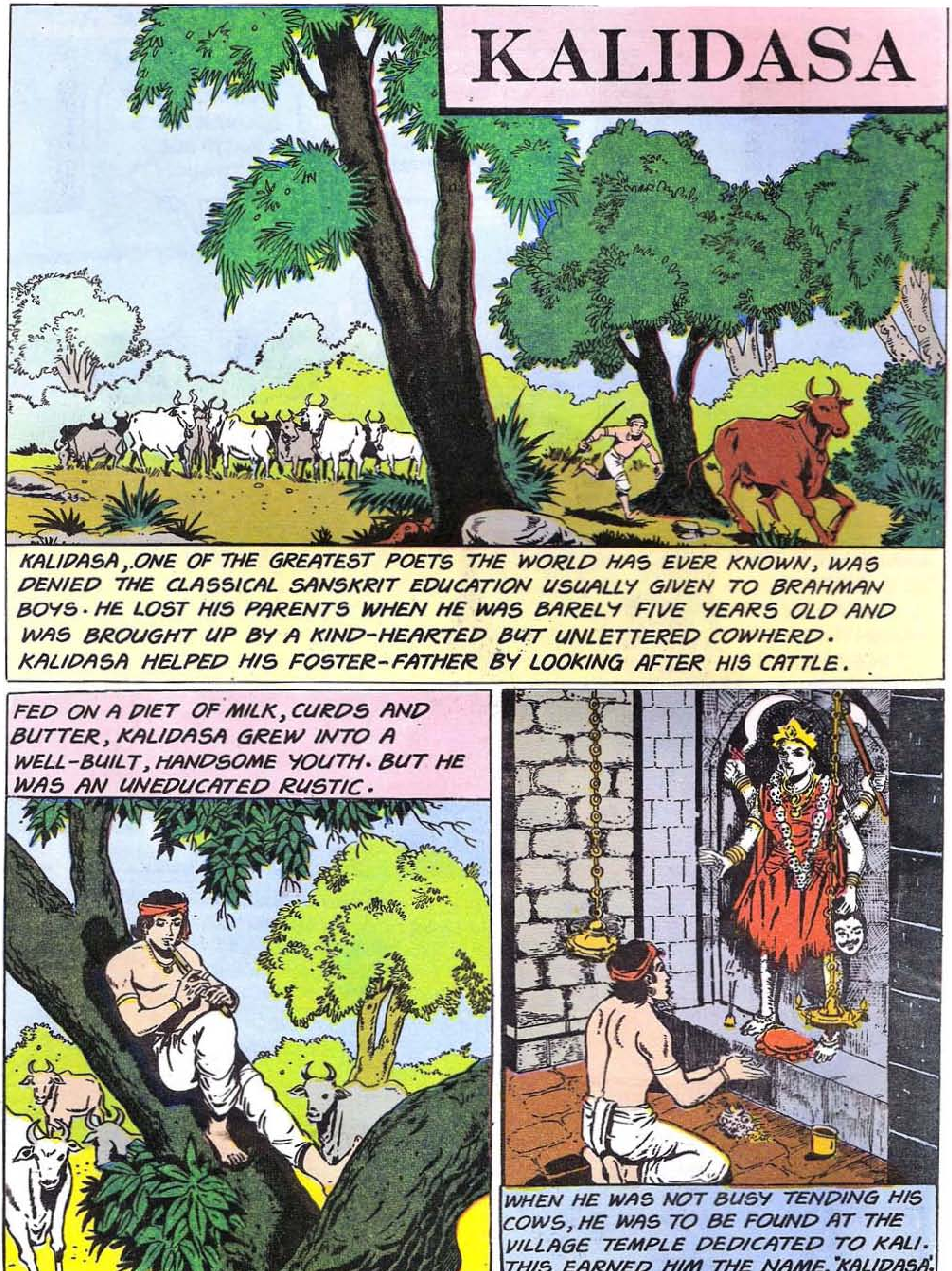
Illustrations
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Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick

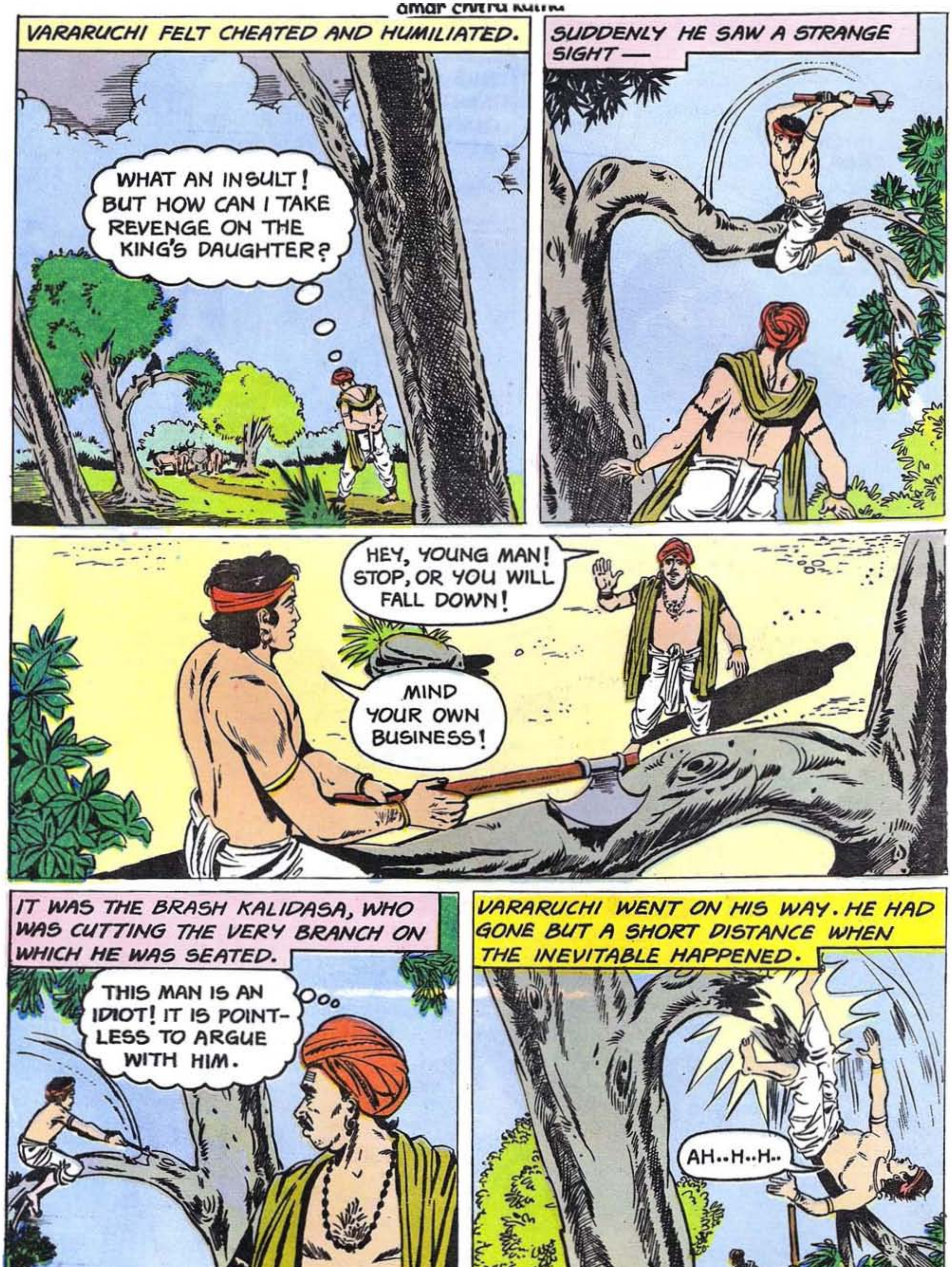
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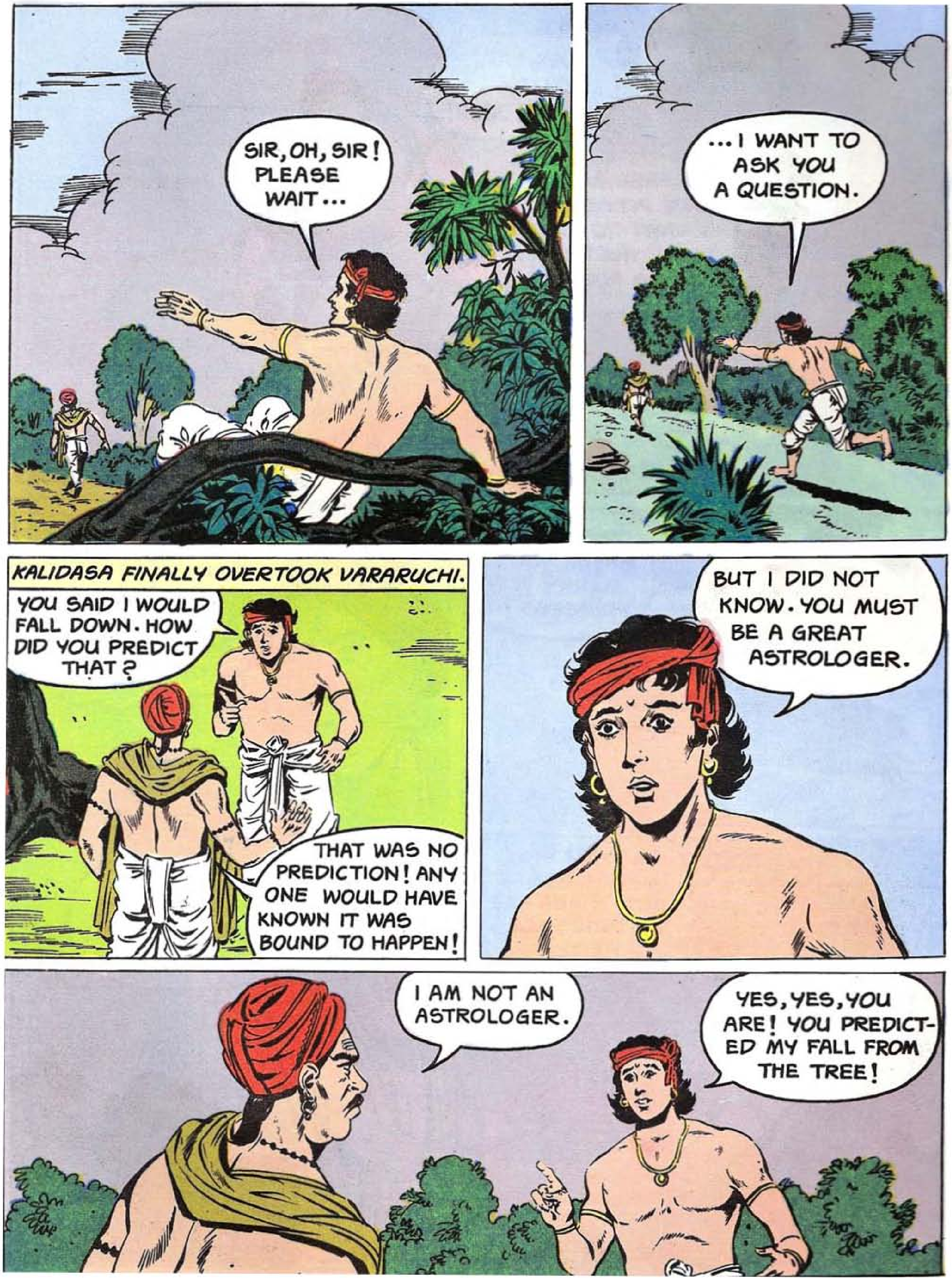
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 14 Marthanda, 4th floor,
84 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumbai 400 018. India

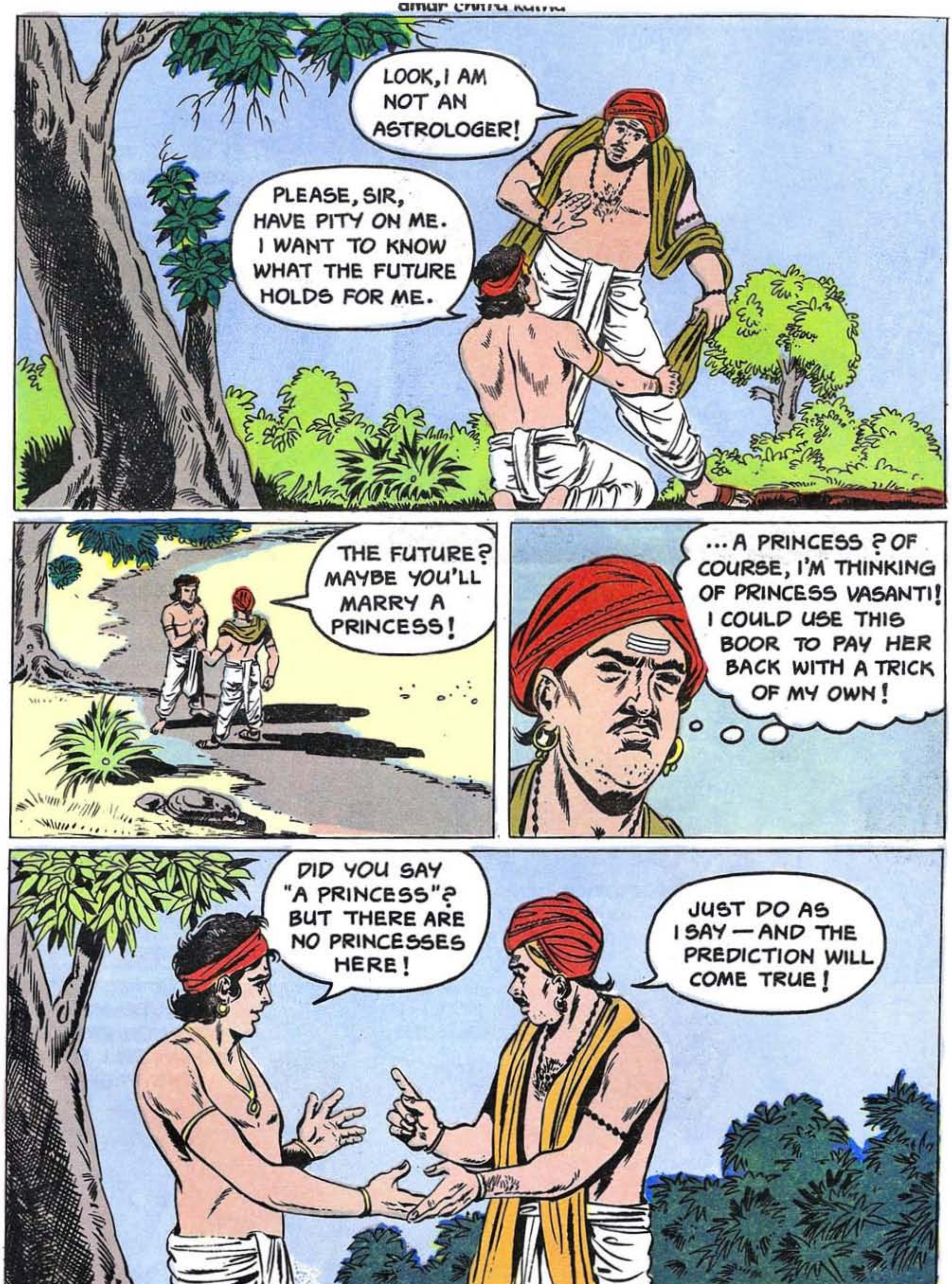

KALIDASA
KALIDASA, ONE OF THE GREATEST POETS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN, WAS DENIED THE CLASSICAL SANSKRIT EDUCATION USUALLY GIVEN TO BRAHMAN BOYS. HE LOST HIS PARENTS WHEN HE WAS BARELY FIVE YEARS OLD AND WAS BROUGHT UP BY A KIND-HEARTED BUT UNLETTERED COWHERD. KALIDASA HELPED HIS FOSTER-FATHER BY LOOKING AFTER HIS CATTLE.
FED ON A DIET OF MILK, CURDS AND BUTTER, KALIDASA GREW INTO A WELL-BUILT, HANDSOME YOUTH. BUT HE WAS AN UNEDUCATED RUSTIC.
WHEN HE WAS NOT BUSY TENDING HIS COWS, HE WAS TO BE FOUND AT THE VILLAGE TEMPLE DEDICATED TO KALI. THIS EARNED HIM THE NAME, "KALIDASA".


NOW IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE KING OF VARANASI HAD A BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED DAUGHTER.
I AM WORRIED ABOUT VASANTI. WHERE CAN WE FIND A MAN WHO IS HER EQUAL IN ACCOMPLISHMENT?
THERE'S VARARUCHI, OF COURSE. HE'S SUITABLE, I THINK.
VARARUCHI? TRUE HE'S A GREAT SCHOLAR, BUT VASANTI IS HARD TO PLEASE AND I WONDER....
WE CAN AT LEAST SUGGEST IT TO HER. LET'S SEE HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT IT.
VASANTI WAS VERY PROUD OF HER KNOWLEDGE.
DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO CAN DEFEAT ME IN A DEBATE ON THE SCRIPTURES? FIND ME SUCH A MAN, FOR ONLY HE CAN HOPE TO WIN ME.
WHEN VARARUCHI ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE VASANTI WAS WORRIED, FOR SHE DID NOT LIKE HIM AND CERTAINLY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN MARRYING HIM.
HE IS VERY LEARNED AND HE MAY DEFEAT ME. I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

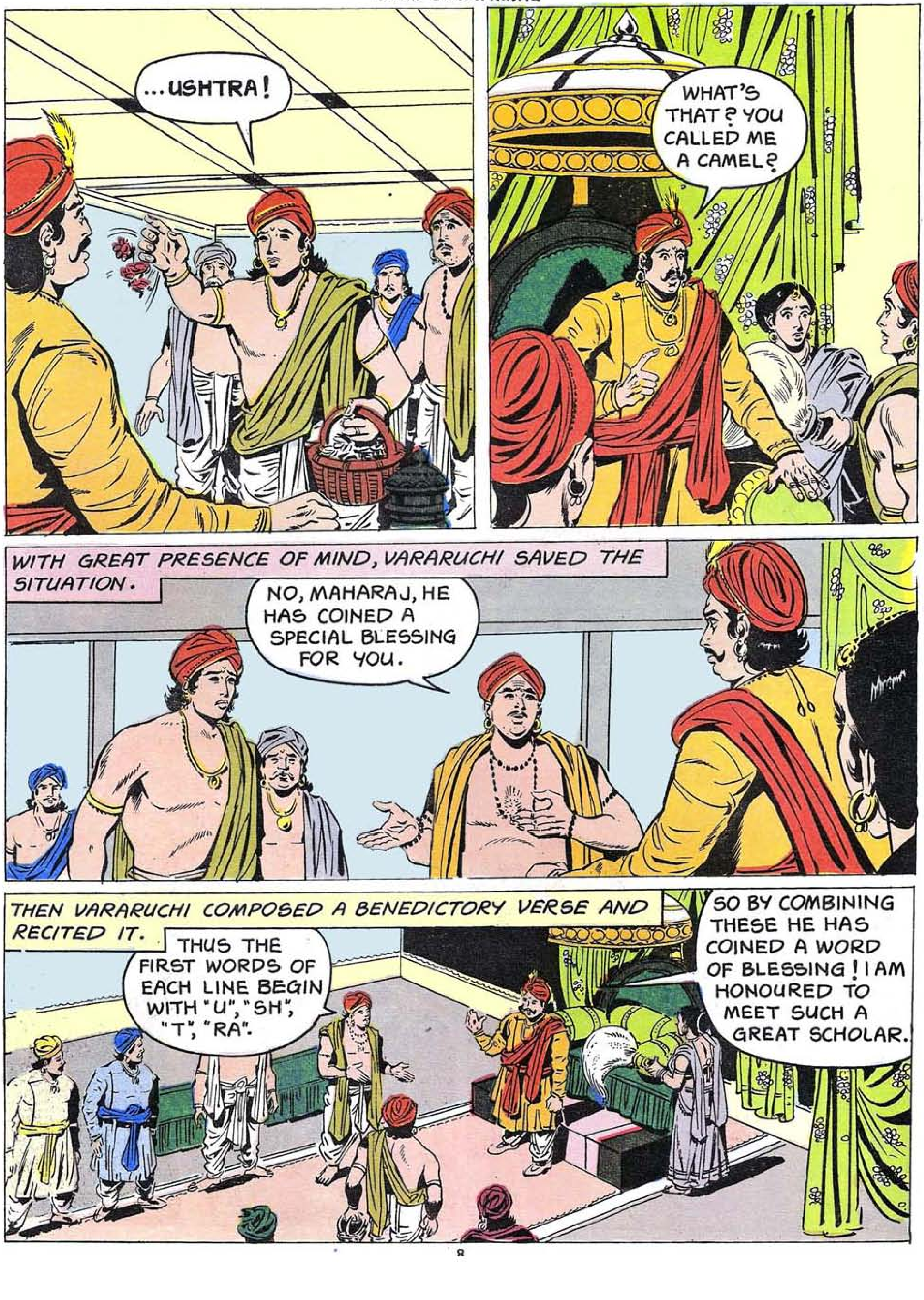

I'LL PLAY A TRICK ON HIM.
ON THE APPOINTED DAY —
THIS SHALL BE A MUTE DEBATE. I WILL ASK QUESTIONS ONLY THROUGH GESTURES AND YOU MUST ANSWER THEM.
AGREED.
THEN VASANTI RAISED ONE OF HER FINGERS.
WHAT, IN THE NAME OF GOD, DOES THAT MEAN!
VARARUCHI ACCEPTED DEFEAT, MUCH TO VASANTI'S GLEE.
I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.
SALUTATIONS, O SCHOLAR, AND GOODBYE!


VARARUCHI FELT CHEATED AND HUMILIATED.
WHAT AN INSULT! BUT HOW CAN I TAKE REVENGE ON THE KING'S DAUGHTER?
SUDDENLY HE SAW A STRANGE SIGHT —
HEY, YOUNG MAN! STOP, OR YOU WILL FALL DOWN!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
IT WAS THE BRASH KALIDASA, WHO WAS CUTTING THE VERY BRANCH ON WHICH HE WAS SEATED.
THIS MAN IS AN IDIOT! IT IS POINTLESS TO ARGUE WITH HIM.
VARARUCHI WENT ON HIS WAY. HE HAD GONE BUT A SHORT DISTANCE WHEN THE INEVITABLE HAPPENED.
AH..H..H..


SIR, OH, SIR! PLEASE WAIT...
...I WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.
KALIDASA FINALLY OVERTOOK VARARUCHI.
YOU SAID I WOULD FALL DOWN. HOW DID YOU PREDICT THAT?
THAT WAS NO PREDICTION! ANY ONE WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN!
BUT I DID NOT KNOW. YOU MUST BE A GREAT ASTROLOGER.
I AM NOT AN ASTROLOGER.
YES, YES, YOU ARE! YOU PREDICTED MY FALL FROM THE TREE!


LOOK, I AM NOT AN ASTROLOGER!
PLEASE, SIR, HAVE PITY ON ME. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR ME.
THE FUTURE? MAYBE YOU'LL MARRY A PRINCESS!
... A PRINCESS? OF COURSE, I'M THINKING OF PRINCESS VASANTI! I COULD USE THIS BOOR TO PAY HER BACK WITH A TRICK OF MY OWN!
DID YOU SAY "A PRINCESS"? BUT THERE ARE NO PRINCESSES HERE!
JUST DO AS I SAY — AND THE PREDICTION WILL COME TRUE!

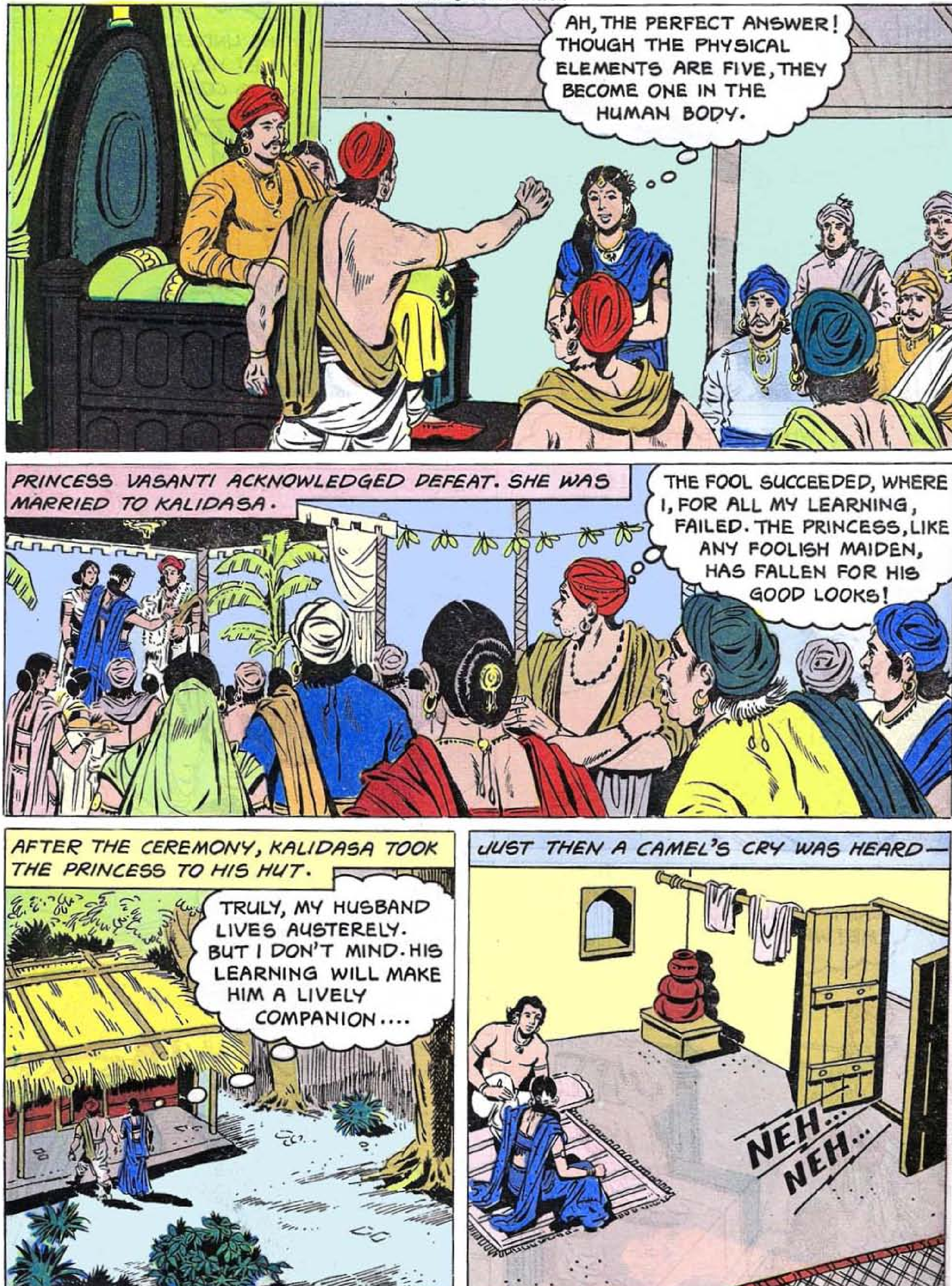

VARARUCHI TOOK KALIDASA TO HIS HOUSE AND MADE HIM CHANGE INTO THE ATTIRE OF A SCHOLAR.
AH! NOW YOU LOOK LIKE A PANDIT. YOU'LL BE A GREAT SUCCESS AT THE PALACE! HERE, HOLD THIS BASKET OF FLOWERS.
VARARUCHI AND KALIDASA MADE THEIR WAY TO THE PALACE.
NOW, DON'T FORGET —WHEN YOU SEE THE KING, SHOWER FLOWERS ON HIM WHILE UTTERING THE BLESSING, "OM SWASTI".
I'LL DO EXACTLY AS YOU SAY.
AT THE PALACE —
THERE'S THE KING!
RIGHT, FIRST I MUST SHOWER FLOWERS ON THE KING; THEN I MUST SAY...
...SAY... SAY WHAT? US-SWATRI? U-SHATRA? OH, I'VE GOT IT...


...USHTRA!
WHAT'S THAT? YOU CALLED ME A CAMEL?
WITH GREAT PRESENCE OF MIND, VARARUCHI SAVED THE SITUATION.
NO, MAHARAJ, HE HAS COINED A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR YOU.
THEN VARARUCHI COMPOSED A BENEDICTORY VERSE AND RECITED IT.
THUS THE FIRST WORDS OF EACH LINE BEGIN WITH "U", "SH", "T", "RA".
SO BY COMBINING THESE HE HAS COINED A WORD OF BLESSING! I AM HONOURED TO MEET SUCH A GREAT SCHOLAR.


MAHARAJ, MAY I PRESENT TO YOU PANDIT KALIDASA? HE HAS COME HERE TO ACCEPT PRINCESS VASANTI'S CHALLENGE.
I AM GLAD TO MEET SOMEONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO DO THAT!
HE IS PREPARED TO DEBATE WITH THE PRINCESS— BUT ON ONE CONDITION; HE, TOO, LIKE HER, WILL NOT SPEAK.
THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH. A DATE SHALL BE SET FOR A DEBATE ON THE SCRIPTURES.
ON THE APPOINTED DAY —
BE CAREFUL, KALIDASA. YOU ALMOST RUINED EVERYTHING BY CALLING THE KING A CAMEL.
I AM SORRY.

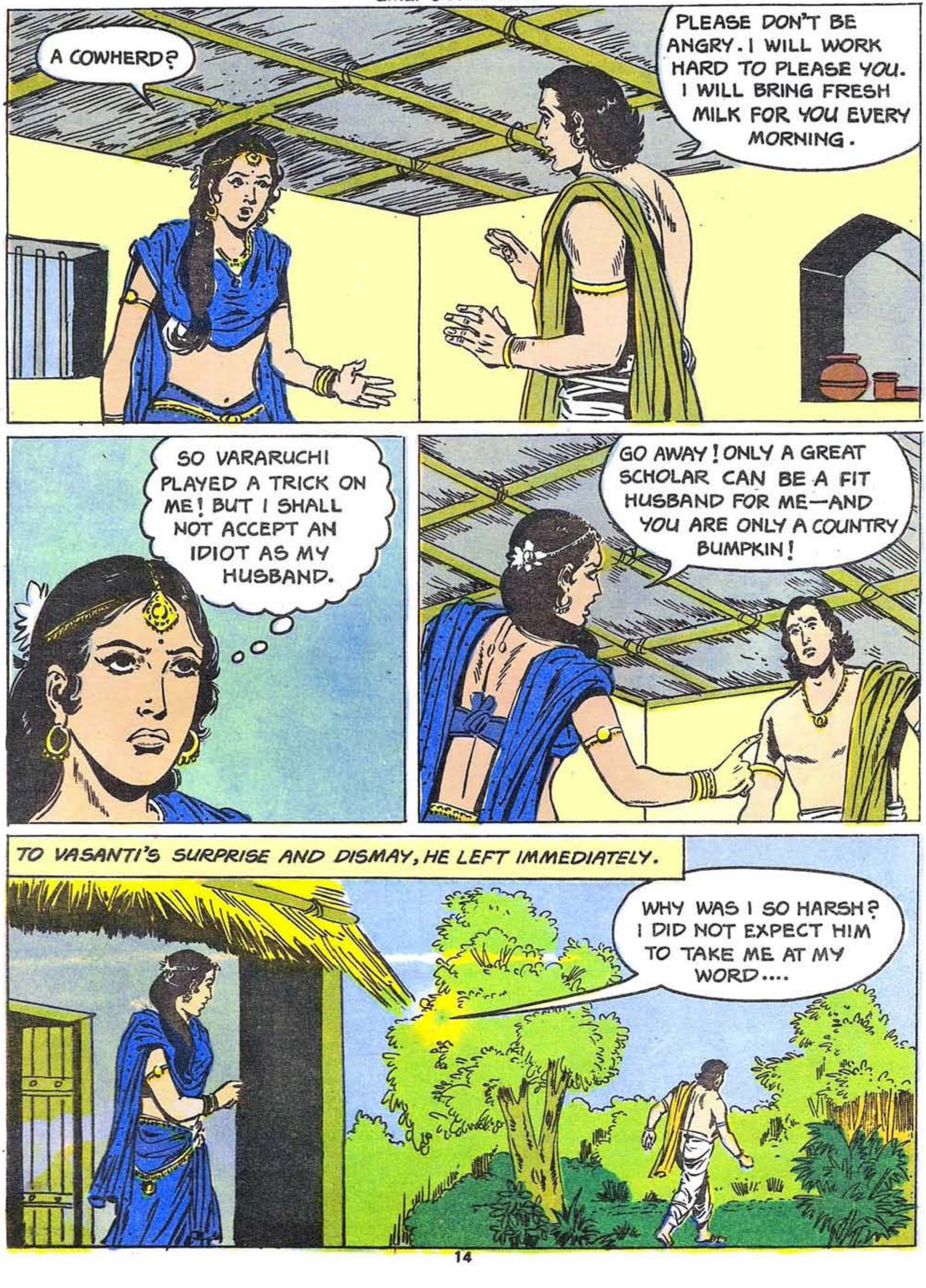

NOW, DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH YOUR HANDS, BUT DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH. OR YOU'LL LOSE YOUR CHANCE OF MARRYING THE PRINCESS.
THE MUTE DEBATE BEGAN. VASANTI RAISED ONE FINGER JUST AS SHE HAD DONE EARLIER WITH VARARUCHI.
WHAT A HANDSOME MAN! BUT WILL HE GUESS THAT MY SIGN MEANS GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE AND ETERNAL BEING?
BUT POOR KALIDASA UNDERSTOOD SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT.
OH, SO YOU WANT TO POKE OUT ONE OF MY EYES!
WELL, I WILL POKE OUT BOTH OF YOURS!

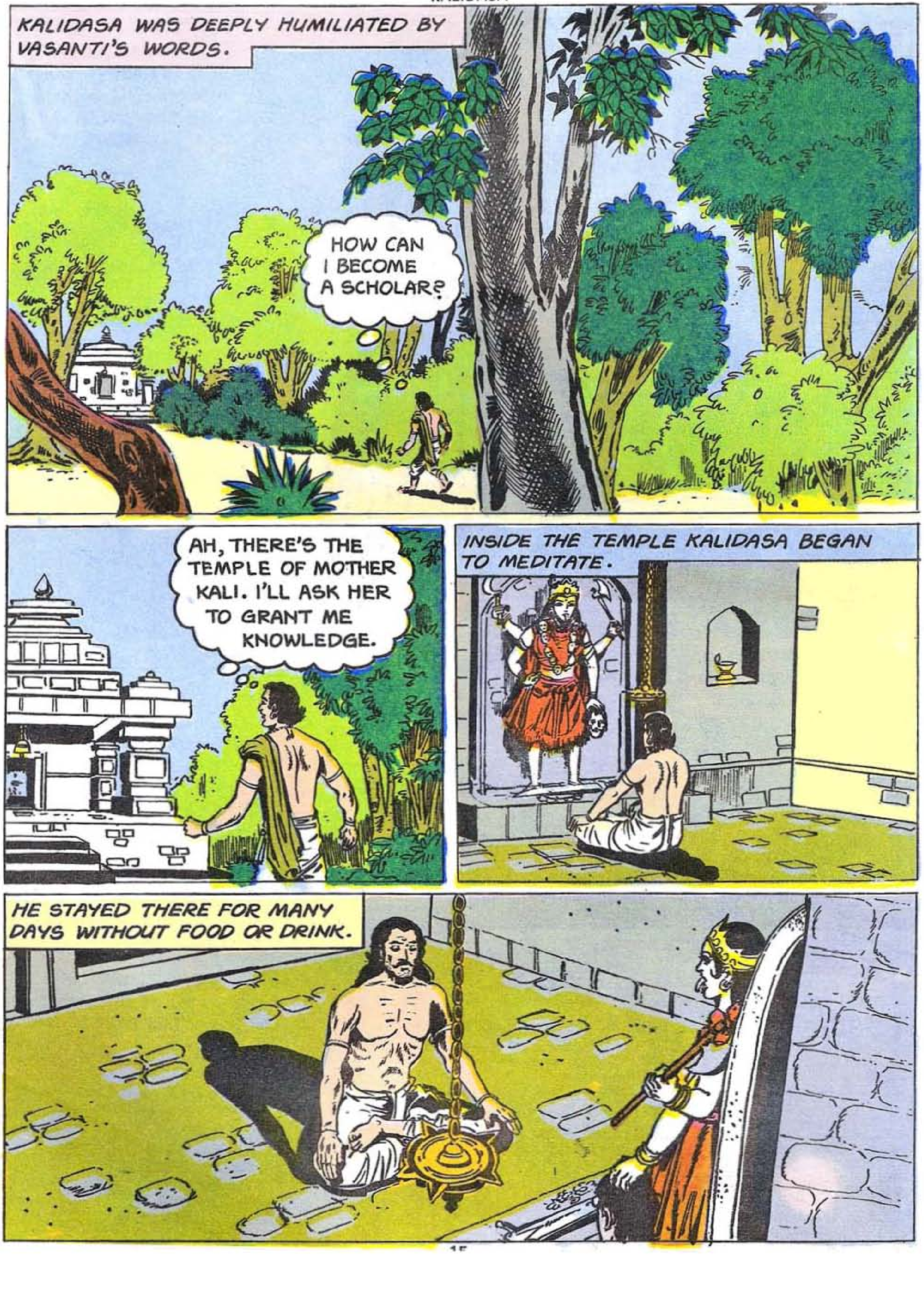

HE UNDERSTANDS ME! HIS ANSWER IS CORRECT.
WHAT HE SAYS IS THAT, BESIDES GOD, THE INDI-VIDUAL SELF IS ALSO A TRUE AND ETERNAL BEING. THAT MAKES IT TWO, AND NOT ONE.
AS HER SECOND QUESTION, VASANTI HELD UP THE FIVE FINGERS OF HER HAND.
THE BODY IS COMPOSED OF FIVE ELEMENTS— FIRE, AIR, ETHER, WATER AND EARTH.
SO, NOW YOU WANT TO SLAP ME! WELL...
...IF YOU SLAP ME, I WILL BOX YOU!



AH, THE PERFECT ANSWER! THOUGH THE PHYSICAL ELEMENTS ARE FIVE, THEY BECOME ONE IN THE HUMAN BODY.
PRINCESS VASANTI ACKNOWLEDGED DEFEAT. SHE WAS MARRIED TO KALIDASA.
THE FOOL SUCCEEDED, WHERE I, FOR ALL MY LEARNING, FAILED. THE PRINCESS, LIKE ANY FOOLISH MAIDEN, HAS FALLEN FOR HIS GOOD LOOKS!
AFTER THE CEREMONY, KALIDASA TOOK THE PRINCESS TO HIS HUT.
TRULY, MY HUSBAND LIVES AUSTERELY. BUT I DON'T MIND. HIS LEARNING WILL MAKE HIM A LIVELY COMPANION....
JUST THEN A CAMEL'S CRY WAS HEARD—
NEH... NEH...


VASANTI REMEMBERED THAT KALIDASA HAD CALLED HER FATHER A CAMEL—
WHAT ANIMAL IS THAT?
HUH... UTRA.
UTRA? YOU MEAN USHTRA?
YES, YES... USH... USH... TRA.
WHY ARE YOU FUMBLING SO MUCH OVER A SIMPLE SANSKRIT WORD?
SANSKRIT? I HAVE NEVER STUDIED SANSKRIT!
VASANTI WAS SHOCKED.
AREN'T YOU A SCHOLAR?
NO. I AM ONLY A COWHERD.

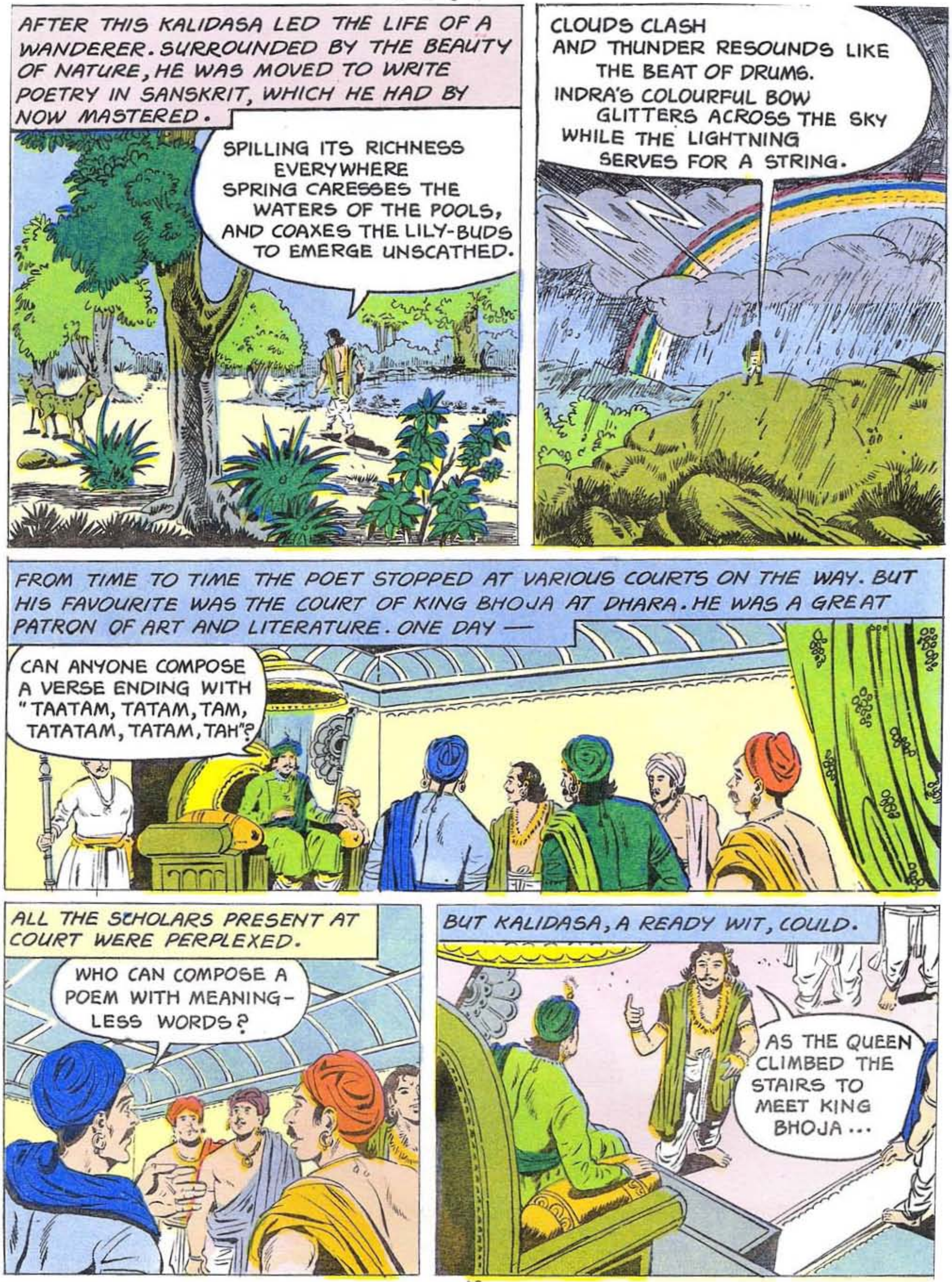

A COWHERD?
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY. I WILL WORK HARD TO PLEASE YOU. I WILL BRING FRESH MILK FOR YOU EVERY MORNING.
SO VARARUCHI PLAYED A TRICK ON ME! BUT I SHALL NOT ACCEPT AN IDIOT AS MY HUSBAND.
GO AWAY! ONLY A GREAT SCHOLAR CAN BE A FIT HUSBAND FOR ME—AND YOU ARE ONLY A COUNTRY BUMPKIN!
TO VASANTI'S SURPRISE AND DISMAY, HE LEFT IMMEDIATELY.
WHY WAS I SO HARSH? I DID NOT EXPECT HIM TO TAKE ME AT MY WORD....


KALIDASA WAS DEEPLY HUMILIATED BY VASANTI'S WORDS.
HOW CAN I BECOME A SCHOLAR?
AH, THERE'S THE TEMPLE OF MOTHER KALI. I'LL ASK HER TO GRANT ME KNOWLEDGE.
INSIDE THE TEMPLE KALIDASA BEGAN TO MEDITATE.
HE STAYED THERE FOR MANY DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR DRINK.



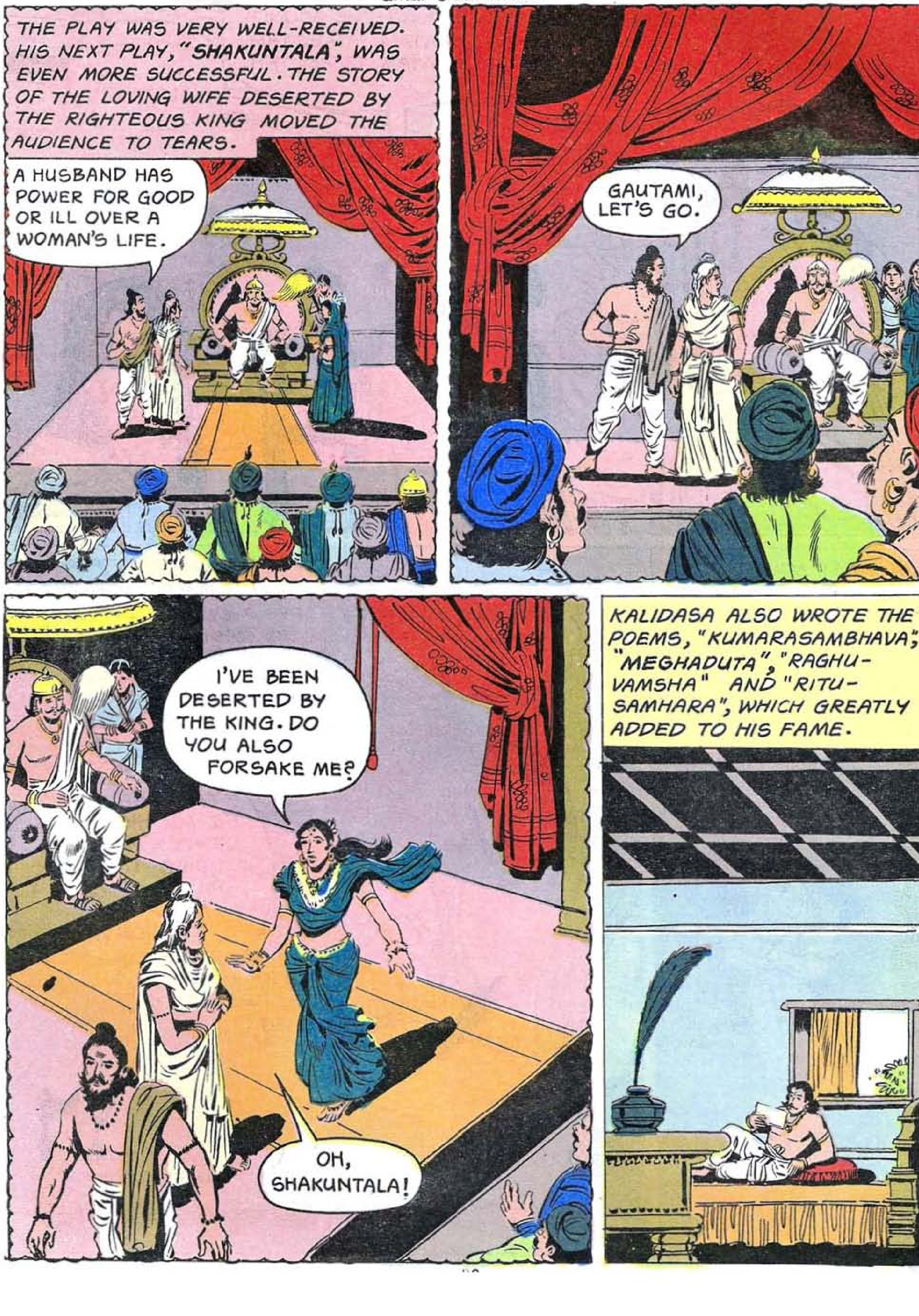
* HAS YOUR SPEECH IMPROVED ?


AND SINCE IT WAS YOU WHO INSPIRED ME TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE, I SHALL BEGIN THREE OF MY WORKS WITH EACH ONE OF THE WORDS YOU JUST UTTERED AS A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL TO ME. I AM YOUR WIFE.
YOU WERE MY WIFE...
... BUT SINCE YOU SET ME ON THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE, YOU HAVE BECOME MY GURU.
VASANTI WAS SHOCKED AND ENRAGED. WHEN SHE FOUND THAT KALIDASA WOULD NOT NOW ACCEPT HER AS HIS WIFE, SHE UTTERED A CURSE.
MAY YOU MEET YOUR END AT THE HANDS OF A WOMAN!

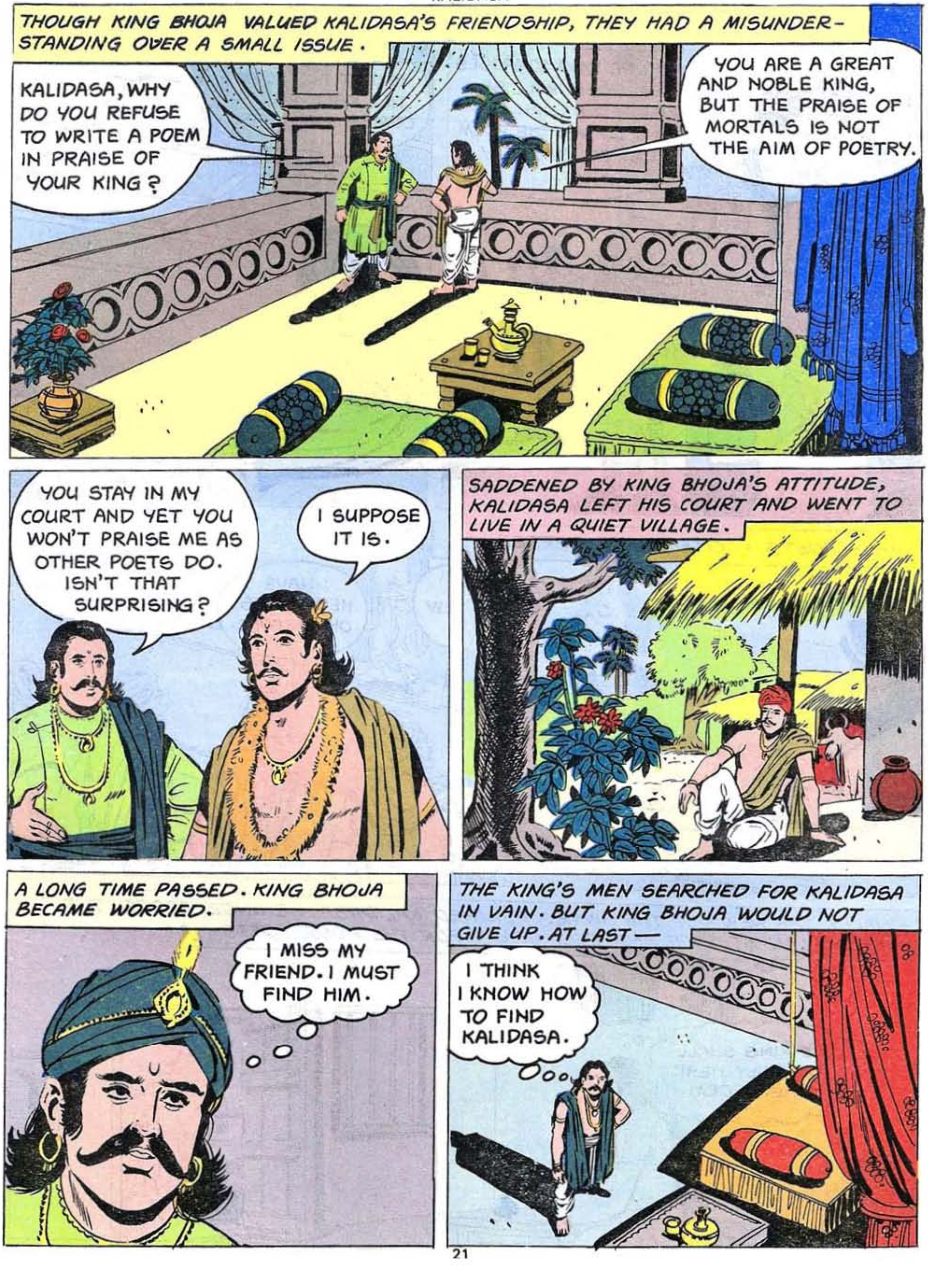

AFTER THIS KALIDASA LED THE LIFE OF A WANDERER. SURROUNDED BY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE, HE WAS MOVED TO WRITE POETRY IN SANSKRIT, WHICH HE HAD BY NOW MASTERED.
SPILLING ITS RICHNESS EVERYWHERE SPRING CARESSES THE WATERS OF THE POOLS, AND COAXES THE LILY-BUDS TO EMERGE UNSCATHED.
CLOUDS CLASH AND THUNDER RESOUNDS LIKE THE BEAT OF DRUMS. INDRA'S COLOURFUL BOW GLITTERS ACROSS THE SKY WHILE THE LIGHTNING SERVES FOR A STRING.
FROM TIME TO TIME THE POET STOPPED AT VARIOUS COURTS ON THE WAY. BUT HIS FAVOURITE WAS THE COURT OF KING BHOJA AT DHARA. HE WAS A GREAT PATRON OF ART AND LITERATURE. ONE DAY —
CAN ANYONE COMPOSE A VERSE ENDING WITH "TAATAM, TATAM, TAM, TATATAM, TATAM, TAH"?
ALL THE SCHOLARS PRESENT AT COURT WERE PERPLEXED.
WHO CAN COMPOSE A POEM WITH MEANING-LESS WORDS?
BUT KALIDASA, A READY WIT, COULD.
AS THE QUEEN CLIMBED THE STAIRS TO MEET KING BHOJA ...

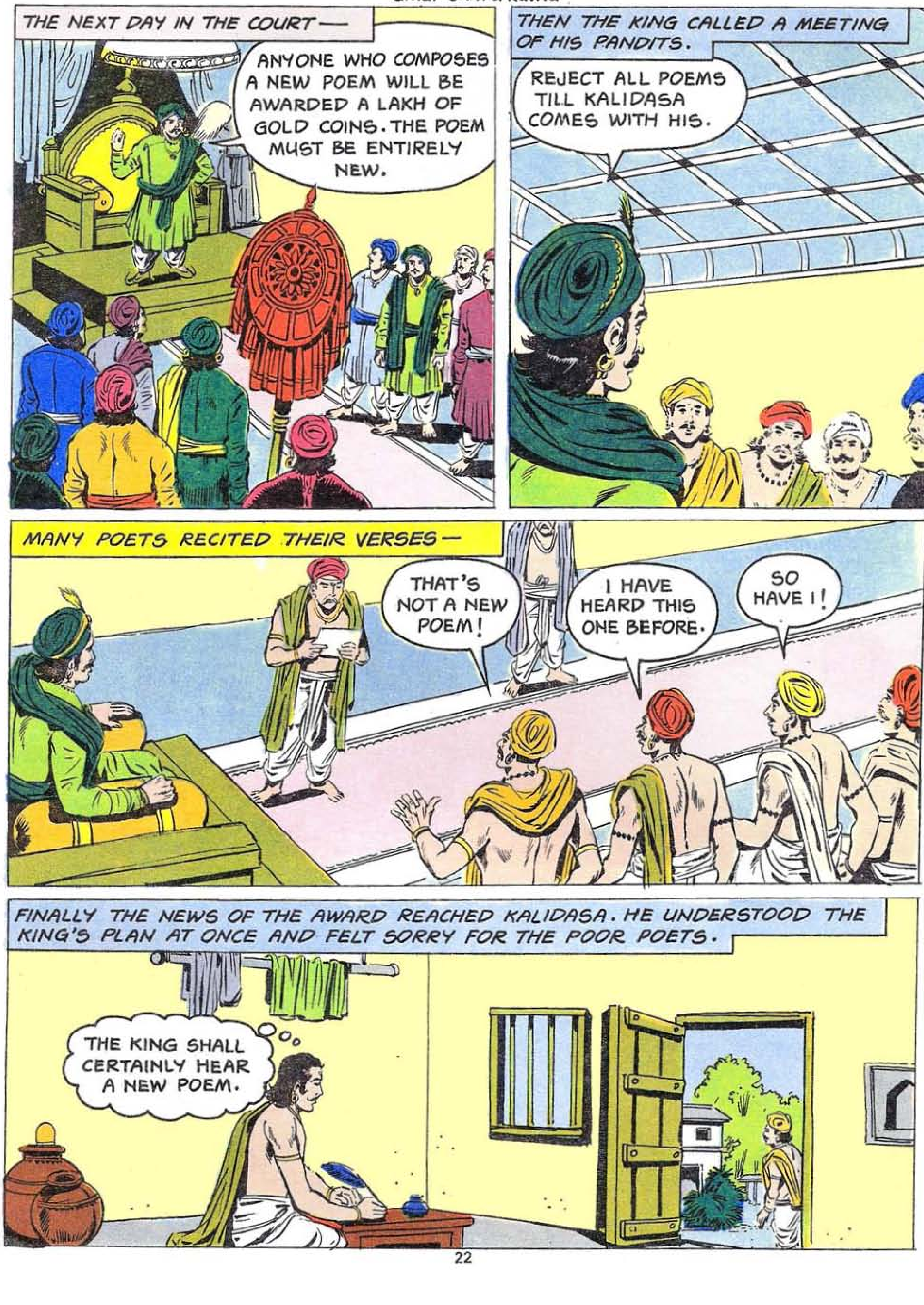


... THE GOLDEN BOWL OF SANDAL-PASTE FELL FROM HER HANDS ...
MAKING THE SOUND: TAATAM, TATAM, TAM, TATATAM, TATAM, TAH.
YOU ARE A GENIUS, KALIDASA!
KALIDASA NOW FELT INSPIRED TO WRITE A PLAY, BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE OF COURT LIFE.
I'LL WRITE ABOUT A KING'S LOVE FOR A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN.
BUT I WONDER IF A NEWCOMER'S WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
KALIDASA'S FIRST PLAY WAS CALLED "MALAVIKA-AGNIMITRA". THE PROLOGUE EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO BE ACCEPTED AS A PLAYWRIGHT.
"THE WISE MAN FORMS HIS OWN OPINION AFTER HE STUDIES THE WORK; ONLY THE FOOL ACCEPTS THE OPINION OF OTHERS."



THE PLAY WAS VERY WELL-RECEIVED. HIS NEXT PLAY, "SHAKUNTALA", WAS EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL. THE STORY OF THE LOVING WIFE DESERTED BY THE RIGHTEOUS KING MOVED THE AUDIENCE TO TEARS.
A HUSBAND HAS POWER FOR GOOD OR ILL OVER A WOMAN'S LIFE.
GAUTAMI, LET'S GO.
I'VE BEEN DESERTED BY THE KING. DO YOU ALSO FORSAKE ME?
OH, SHAKUNTALA!
KALIDASA ALSO WROTE THE POEMS, "KUMARASAMBHAVA", "MEGHADUTA", "RAGHU-VAMSHA" AND "RITU-SAMHARA", WHICH GREATLY ADDED TO HIS FAME.

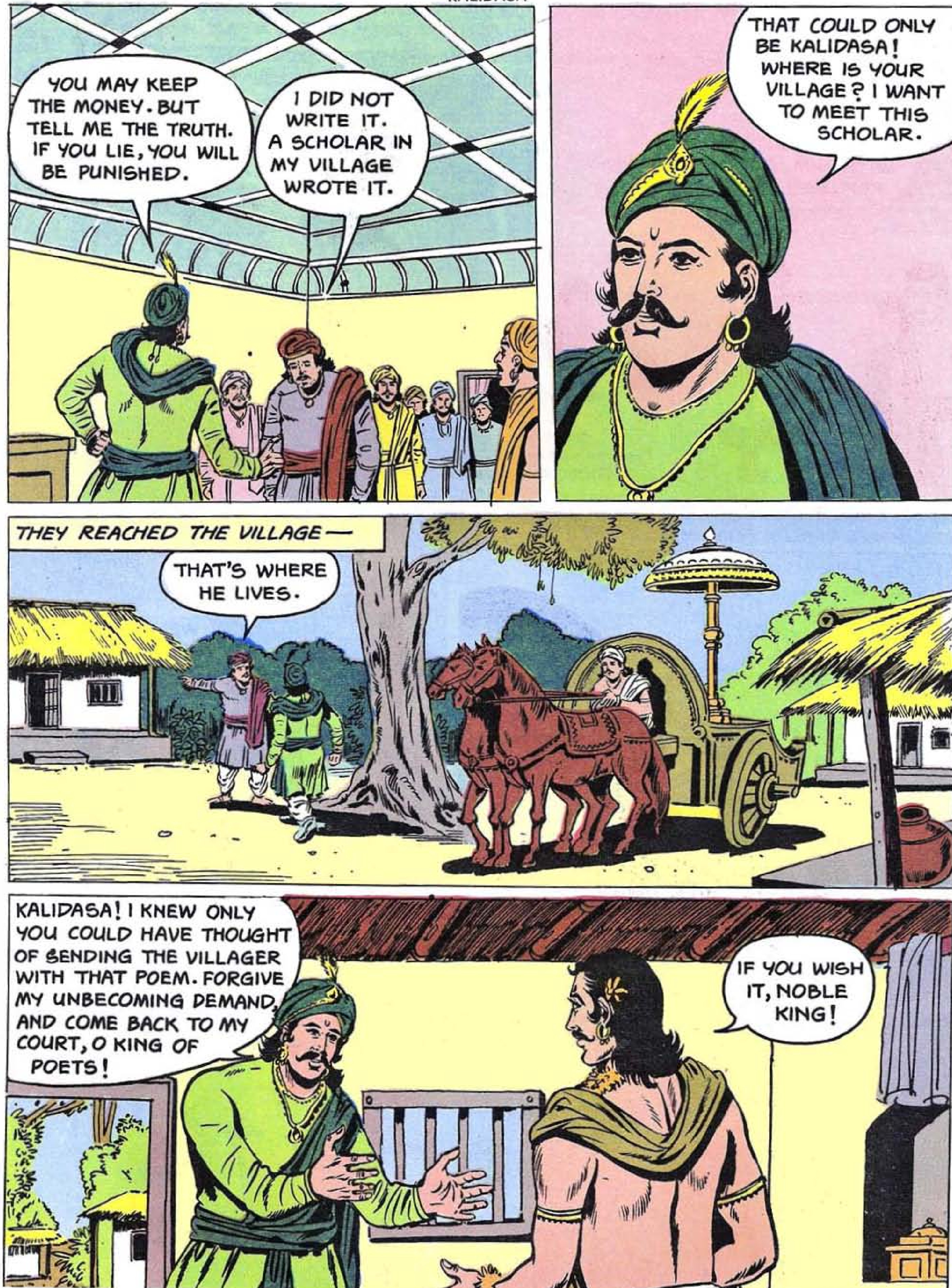

THOUGH KING BHOJA VALUED KALIDASA'S FRIENDSHIP, THEY HAD A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER A SMALL ISSUE.
KALIDASA, WHY DO YOU REFUSE TO WRITE A POEM IN PRAISE OF YOUR KING?
YOU ARE A GREAT AND NOBLE KING, BUT THE PRAISE OF MORTALS IS NOT THE AIM OF POETRY.
YOU STAY IN MY COURT AND YET YOU WON'T PRAISE ME AS OTHER POETS DO. ISN'T THAT SURPRISING?
I SUPPOSE IT IS.
SADDENED BY KING BHOJA'S ATTITUDE, KALIDASA LEFT HIS COURT AND WENT TO LIVE IN A QUIET VILLAGE.
A LONG TIME PASSED. KING BHOJA BECAME WORRIED.
I MISS MY FRIEND. I MUST FIND HIM.
THE KING'S MEN SEARCHED FOR KALIDASA IN VAIN. BUT KING BHOJA WOULD NOT GIVE UP. AT LAST —
I THINK I KNOW HOW TO FIND KALIDASA.


THE NEXT DAY IN THE COURT—
ANYONE WHO COMPOSES A NEW POEM WILL BE AWARDED A LAKH OF GOLD COINS. THE POEM MUST BE ENTIRELY NEW.
THEN THE KING CALLED A MEETING OF HIS PANDITS.
REJECT ALL POEMS TILL KALIDASA COMES WITH HIS.
MANY POETS RECITED THEIR VERSES—
THAT'S NOT A NEW POEM!
I HAVE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE.
SO HAVE I!
FINALLY THE NEWS OF THE AWARD REACHED KALIDASA. HE UNDERSTOOD THE KING'S PLAN AT ONCE AND FELT SORRY FOR THE POOR POETS.
THE KING SHALL CERTAINLY HEAR A NEW POEM.

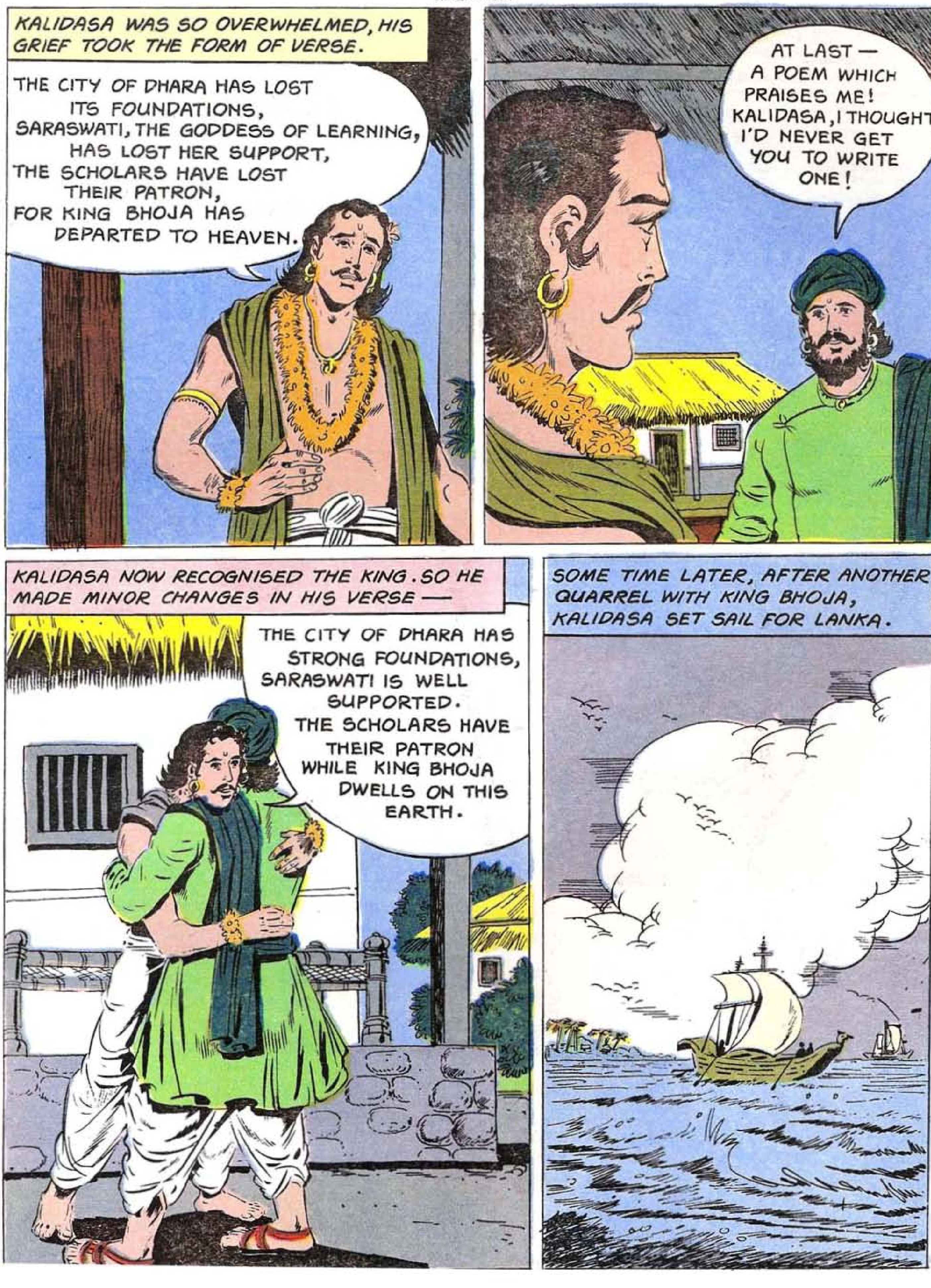

HE CALLED A VILLAGER WHO WAS PASSING BY HIS HUT.
TAKE THIS POEM TO KING BHOJA AND TELL HIM YOU WROTE IT. HE WILL PAY YOU WELL FOR IT.
BUT I AM NEITHER A POET NOR A SCHOLAR!
YOU WANT THE MONEY, DON'T YOU? THEN DO AS I SAY. NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU.
THE VILLAGER WENT TO THE PALACE AND READ OUT THE POEM —
NINETY-ONE CRORES OF GOLD COINS DID YOUR FATHER ONCE BORROW FROM ME. ISN'T IT TIME NOW, O KING BHOJA, TO RETURN THE MONEY?
THE PANDITS WERE SHOCKED INTO SILENCE.
SURELY YOU HAVE HEARD MY POEM BEFORE?



IF WE SAY 'YES' THE KING WILL HAVE TO PAY HIM NINETY-ONE CRORES OF GOLD COINS.
AND IF WE SAY 'NO'?
THEN THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED A NEW POEM.
IF YOUR SCHOLARS HAVEN'T HEARD THIS BEFORE, THEN TREAT IT AS A NEW POEM AND GRANT ME YOUR AWARD OF ONE LAKH OF GOLD COINS.
KING BHOJA WAS PLEASED WITH THE CLEVER VILLAGER.
YOUR POEM IS A NEW ONE. THE AWARD IS YOURS.
MAY YOU LIVE LONG, KING BHOJA!
BUT TELL ME, DID YOU WRITE THE VERSE YOURSELF?
ER...ER... YES, MAHARAJ.


YOU MAY KEEP THE MONEY. BUT TELL ME THE TRUTH. IF YOU LIE, YOU WILL BE PUNISHED.
I DID NOT WRITE IT. A SCHOLAR IN MY VILLAGE WROTE IT.
THAT COULD ONLY BE KALIDASA! WHERE IS YOUR VILLAGE? I WANT TO MEET THIS SCHOLAR.
THEY REACHED THE VILLAGE —
THAT'S WHERE HE LIVES.
KALIDASA! I KNEW ONLY YOU COULD HAVE THOUGHT OF SENDING THE VILLAGER WITH THAT POEM. FORGIVE MY UNBECOMING DEMAND, AND COME BACK TO MY COURT, O KING OF POETS!
IF YOU WISH IT, NOBLE KING!


BUT THEY CONTINUED TO HAVE DIFFERENCES. WHENEVER THEY QUARRELLED, KALIDASA WOULD GO AWAY AND WOULD RETURN ONLY AFTER MUCH COAXING. ONE DAY, HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO RETURN.
MAHARAJ, KALIDASA IS IN A VILLAGE FIFTY MILES AWAY. I HAVE PLEADED WITH HIM, BUT HE REFUSES TO RETURN.
I WILL BRING HIM BACK MYSELF.
KING BHOJA DECIDED TO FIND OUT WHAT KALIDASA REALLY FELT ABOUT HIM.
I'LL GO AND MEET KALIDASA IN DISGUISE.
SALUTATIONS! I COME FROM DHARA.
WELCOME. HOW IS KING BHOJA?
KING BHOJA? HE DIED A FEW DAYS AGO.
OH, GOD!


KALIDASA WAS SO OVERWHELMED, HIS GRIEF TOOK THE FORM OF VERSE.
THE CITY OF DHARA HAS LOST ITS FOUNDATIONS, SARASWATI, THE GODDESS OF LEARNING, HAS LOST HER SUPPORT, THE SCHOLARS HAVE LOST THEIR PATRON, FOR KING BHOJA HAS DEPARTED TO HEAVEN.
AT LAST — A POEM WHICH PRAISES ME! KALIDASA, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET YOU TO WRITE ONE!
KALIDASA NOW RECOGNISED THE KING. SO HE MADE MINOR CHANGES IN HIS VERSE —
THE CITY OF DHARA HAS STRONG FOUNDATIONS, SARASWATI IS WELL SUPPORTED. THE SCHOLARS HAVE THEIR PATRON WHILE KING BHOJA DWELLS ON THIS EARTH.
SOME TIME LATER, AFTER ANOTHER QUARREL WITH KING BHOJA, KALIDASA SET SAIL FOR LANKA.


THOUGH KALIDASA WAS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THE COURT OF KUMARADASA, THE KING OF LANKA, HE DECIDED NOT TO GO THERE.
IF KING KUMARADASA KNOWS I AM HERE, HE WILL INFORM KING BHOJA.
I DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO DHARA JUST YET.
AVOIDING THE COURT, KALIDASA WENT TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF A DANCER.
KING KUMARADASA WAS, LIKE KING BHOJA, A GREAT PATRON OF LITERATURE AND ART.
HERE IS A REWARD OF A THOUSAND GOLD COINS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT COMPOSITION.
THE KING WILL AWARD A LAKH OF GOLD COINS TO ANYONE WHO CAN COMPLETE THIS VERSE.


NOBODY COULD COMPLETE THE VERSE. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS —
...THE TASK SET BY THE KING IS VERY DIFFICULT.
LET ME TRY—
WHAT IS THE VERSE?
"WE HAVE HEARD OF A LOTUS ISSUING FROM ANOTHER— BUT NO ONE HAS SEEN SUCH A THING".
BUT I HAVE—
YOU HAVE! WHERE?
RIGHT HERE. AT THIS VERY MOMENT I BEHOLD THE LOTUS EYES IN YOUR LOTUS FACE.


THAT'S PERFECT! PLEASE WRITE IT DOWN!
THE KING WILL SURELY GIVE AN AWARD FOR THIS VERSE. WHY SHOULD I LET KALIDASA HAVE THE MONEY? I COULD USE IT TO BUY MYSELF SOME ORNAMENTS.
THE NEXT MOMENT SHE STABBED KALIDASA.
AH... VASANTI! YOUR CURSE... HAS COME TRUE....


THE DANCER TOOK THE POEM TO KUMARADASA —
BEAUTIFUL! THIS IS THE WORK OF A GENIUS!
YOU ARE VERY KIND.
BUT THE STYLE SEEMS FAMILIAR. IT IS RATHER LIKE KALIDASA'S WORK.
THE WOMAN'S NERVOUS BEHAVIOUR ADDED TO KUMARADASA'S SUSPICIONS.
DID YOU REALLY WRITE THOSE LINES?
YES.
YOU WROTE THEM YOURSELF, WITHOUT HELP FROM ANYONE?
YES....



YOU ARE LYING. TELL ME THE TRUTH, OR I WILL HAVE YOU THROWN INTO A DUNGEON!
FORGIVE ME!
I WAS BLINDED BY GREED. I KILLED THE SCHOLAR WHO COMPLETED THE VERSE.
HEARTLESS WOMAN! YOU HAVE KILLED KALIDASA!
KUMARADASA WENT AT ONCE TO THE DANCER'S HOUSE.
OH, GOD! IT IS KALIDASA! FOR THE SAKE OF PETTY GAIN, THIS WOMAN HAS KILLED A GREAT MAN!
KUMARADASA ARRANGED FOR THE FUNERAL OF THE POET AND AS HE WITNESSED THE FLAMES ENVELOPING KALIDASA'S BODY....
... HE WAS SO OVERCOME BY GRIEF, THAT HE TOO JUMPED INTO THE FUNERAL PYRE AND WAS CONSUMED IN THE BLAZE.

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

ACK EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

ABHIMANYU
ANDHAKA
ANIRUDDHA
ARJUNA, TALES OF
ARUNI AND UTTANKA
ASHWINI KUMARS
AYYAPPAN
BAHUBALI
BALARAMA, TALES OF
BHEEMA AND HANUMAN
BHEESHMA
CHANDRAHASA
CHURNING OF THE OCEAN
DASHARATHA
DHRUVA AND ASHTAVAKRA
DRAUPADI
DRONA
DURGA, TALES OF
ELEPHANTA
GANDHARI
GANESHA
GANGA
GARUDA
GHATOTKACHA
GITA, THE
GOLDEN MONGOOSE, THE
HANUMAN
HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
HARISCHANDRA
INDRA AND SHACHI
INDRA AND SHIBI
JAGANNATHA OF PURI
JAYADRATHA
KACHA AND DEVAYANI
KARNA
KARTTIKEYA
KRISHNA
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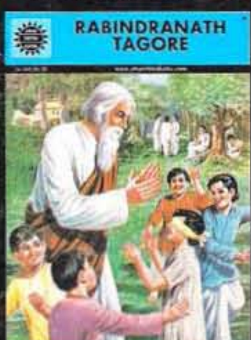
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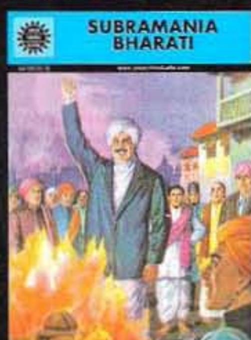
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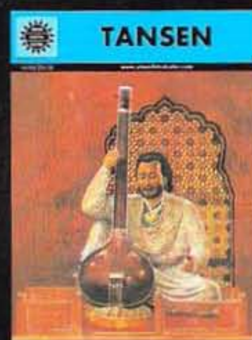
Kalidasa owes his fame to his Sanksrit play Abhijnana-Shakuntala (Shakuntala Recognised by the Token Ring), the long epic poem Kumara-Sambhava (Birth of Kumara) and the lyric poem Meghaduta (Cloud Messenger).

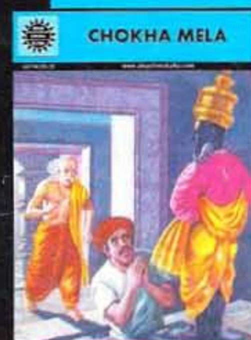
Kalidasa, who lived some time in the middle of the 4th and early 5th centuries A.D., has left no account of his life. According to popular legends, he owed his ingenuity as much to Goddess Kali's blessings as to his own talents.

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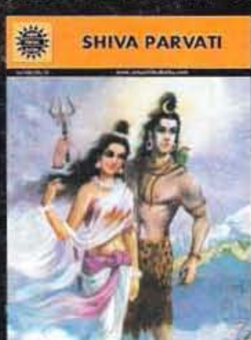




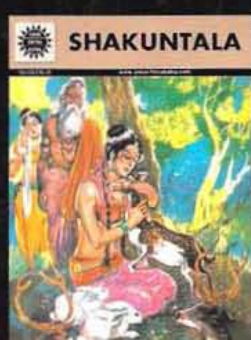




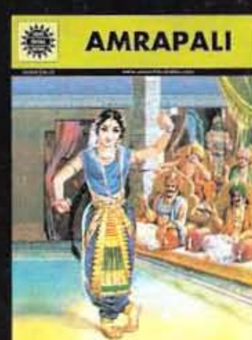
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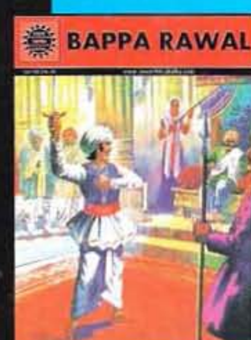
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